*THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ANY ACTUAL PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR EVENTS IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

CHAPTER 53:
TO THE BRIDGE

A SILENT VOICE

YOSHITOKI OIMA
UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE JAPANESE FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

I HAD A DREAM.
I'LL GET MAD IF YOU DO IT AGAIN!
A DREAM WHERE I TALKED TO NISHIMIYA NORMALLY.
HAHA! SORRY! SORRY!
YEAH!
WE'RE GOING TO WIN FOR SURE!
THAT WAS GREAT, CLASS!
AND IN HIGH SCHOOL.
IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
LET'S GO TO THAT BRIDGE!
FOR SOME REASON, IN THE DREAM, I THOUGHT EVERYTHING WOULD GO WELL FOR ME.

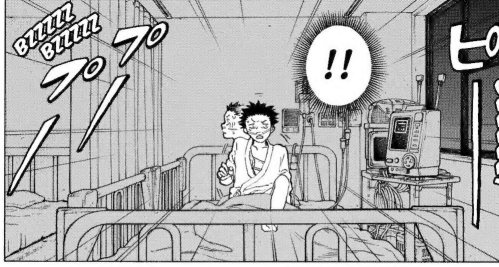
THEN, I WENT TO SLEEP FEELING REALLY HAPPY...
I WAS STARTLED BY SOMEONE PULLING MY HAND.
THAT'S WHEN...
OUTSIDE THE DREAM, I WONDER IF EVERY-ONE...
OUTSIDE THE DREAM, I WONDER WHERE WE ARE GOING.
IS GOING TO DIE.

NO, THEY CAN'T DIE!

N-
NIHI-
MIYA!

I AM... ALIVE.
AM I...
WHERE AM I?
I'M ALIVE...
IS NISHI-MIYA ALL RIGHT?!
SHIVER
I'VE GOTTA GET TO HER!

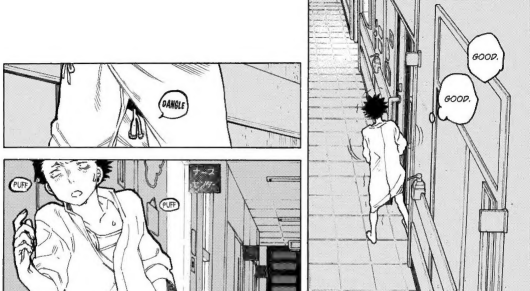
...
WHOA!
...
WHOA!
I CAN'T PULL IT OUT?!
?
?
SPROING
THESE THINGS ARE IN THE WAY!!
SNORT
WHAT'S GOIN' ON?!
MOM!
MOM!
SNORT
SNORT


BEEEEEP
!!
BUUU BUUU
TO TO

YOU'RE AWAKE!
OH, ISHIDA-SAN!

DON'T WORRY! YOU'RE FINE! YOU'RE PERFECTLY FINE, ISHIDA-SAN!
MY MOUTH IS DRY AS A BONE!
WHAT HAPPENED TO NISHI-MIYA?!
GUH...
SNORT
AH...
I'M SORRY?
IH NIHI-MYAH OHAY?
NISHI-MYAH!
NO! RIGH' NOW!
YES, OF COURSE. FIRST, WE'RE GOING TO LET THE DOCTOR EXAMINE YOU, THEN--
PLEAH TAY ALL OF THETH OUH!
I'H TOHALLY FIE NOW!
PLEAH TAY THIH OUH!

MOHM!
PHOH!
RIGH' NOW!
KLIP KLOP
WAHER!
YES, OF COURSE. JUST A MOMENT.
...
...
GHH!
SHRP
...
OH!
CAN I BREAK FREE ?!!!
POP
ALL RIGHT!



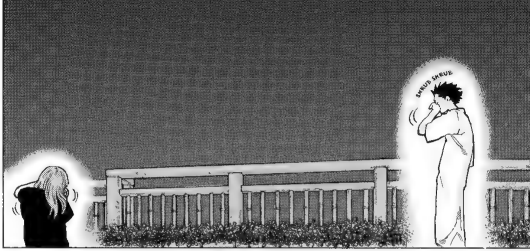
*SIGN: "NURSE CENTER"

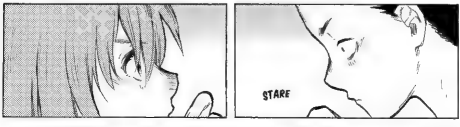
CHAK
HUH?
HUH?
HUH?
NISHI-MIYA.
NISHI-MIYA.
NISHI-MIYA.
NISHI-MIYA.
NISHI-MIYA.
NISHI-MIYA.

HUFF
NISHI...
MIYA...
HUFF
NISHI-MIYA...
...
HUFF
HUFF

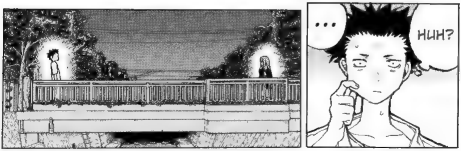
NI-
SHI...
?!!!

YO...
...
IS THIS A HALLUCI-NATION?
AM I STILL DREAMING?
...RUNNING INTO HER LIKE THIS IS ALMOST TOO PERFECT.
OOO...?
UH...
UM?
OR MAYBE NISHIMIYA IS THE GHOST?
AM I DEAD?
OH, IS THIS THAT OLD CHESTNUT?


SHAKE SHAKE


STARE

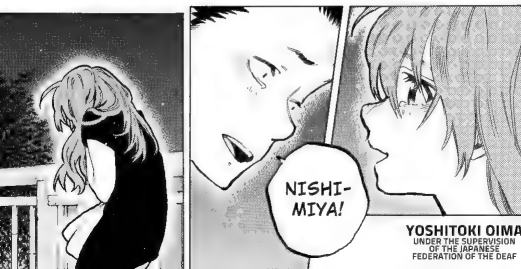
WHISTLE


...
HUH?

POKE

A MIRACLE CREATED BY TWO CONNECTED SOULS. NEXT TIME: "WHAT I WANT TO SAY."

NISHI!
MIYA!!
CONGRATS, YOSHITOKI OIMA,
WINNER OF THE OGAKI CITY
CULTURAL ALLIANCE AWARD
(LIFESTYLE CULTURE DIVISION)!
A SILENT VOICE
EMOTIONS POUR FORTH, TEARS FALL,
THEIR TIME TOGETHER BEGINS.


NISHI-
MIYA!
YOSHITOKI OIMA
UNDER THE SUPERVISION
OF THE JAPANESE
FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

ARE YOU...ALL RIGHT?

CHAPTER 54: TO YOU

*THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ANY ACTUAL PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR EVENTS IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

CLENCH

YOU'RE OKAY.
I'M GLAD...

YEAH.

...
OH.
BUT I'M FINE NOW!
...MORE OR LESS.
SO DON'T MAKE THAT FACE...
AND LET ME SAY SOMETHING TOO...
...
NISHI-MIYA...

I'M SORRY.
NISHI-MIYA-SAN...

...

WELL, I NEVER REALLY...
APOLOGIZED FOR THAT STUFF I DID WHEN WE WERE KIDS.
...OR FOR EVERY-THING THAT HAPPENED LATER...

I INTENDED TO LISTEN TO YOUR VOICE...
BUT IT REALLY WAS...
NOTHING BUT INTENTIONS.
IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS, HUH?
OF COURSE THERE'S MORE GOING ON THAN WHAT PEOPLE CHOOSE TO TELL YOU...
BUT I CONVINCED MYSELF THAT WAS ALL THERE IS TO A PERSON...
I KNEW THAT...

BUT I STILL...
INTERPRETED THE STUFF I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND ABOUT YOU IN WAYS CONVENIENT FOR ME...
THAT'S JUST...
HOW I AM.
AND MY SELFISHNESS...
LED TO YOU...
JUMPING... FROM THAT BALCONY...
BUT... NISHIMIYA...

WHAP
WHAP

UGH!

WHAP

WHUMP
WHAP
WHAP
WHAP
NISHI-
MIYA...

AGH!
~SOB~

C...
COME ON... DON'T CRY.
-UGH-
-SOB-

PAT

BUT...
I REALIZED ...
IT STILL WASN'T WORTH DYING OVER.

...

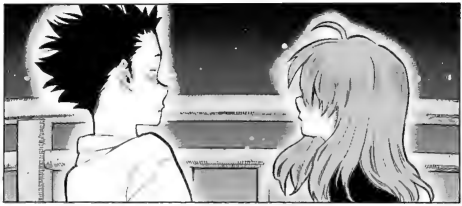
I THOUGHT ...
THE SAME WAY.

SO...
UM...
I DON'T REALLY WANT YOU TO CRY, BUT...

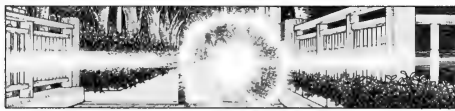
OH...
ALTHOUGH I KNOW I'M NOT IN ANY POSITION TO TELL YOU THIS...

I WANT YOU TO CRY.
IF CRYING WILL SOLVE ANYTHING...
AND GOOF OFF...
AND TALK...
I WANT TO HANG OUT MORE WITH EVERYONE...
SOMETHING I NEED TO DO STARTING TODAY...
IF THERE IS...
I WANT YOU...
AND I WANT YOU TO HELP ME.

...TO HELP ME LIVE.
...



NISHI-
MIYA.



...SHO-
CHAN?

HMM?

I KNEW YOU'D BE HERE!
OHH!
SHOKO!
ISHIDA-KUN!
⇒UHHH⇐
⇒UHHH⇐
OH...
UGH...
!
FLOP
MA!
MA'AM!
AT LONG LAST, NIGHT BREAKS, AND MORNING COMES ONCE AGAIN.
■TO BE CONTINUED

A SILENT VOICE
I'VE BEEN SO...SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU...
SHOYA... YOU FINALLY WOKE UP...
THIS WHOLE TIME...
WAIT, IS THIS A DREAM ?!!!
*SFX: *WHUMP*
IT'S NOT A DREAM.
SHOYA FINALLY AWAKENS! NOW IT IS TIME TO FACE THE PEOPLE HE MUST FACE, DO THE THINGS HE MUST DO, ONE AT A TIME!
!
CHAPTER 55: HOMECOMING
YOSHITOKI OIMA
UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE JAPANESE FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

*THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ANY ACTUAL PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR EVENTS IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

OH MY...
KRIP KRIP
SEE YOU SOON, MA'AM!
AHA! JUST NOT FEELING UP TO IT...I GUESS?
HUH? WHY NOT?
HUH?! OH, NOT TODAY...
COME IN AND LET HIM SEE YOU!

SHE MUST BE BASH-FUL.

UENO CAME EVERY DAY TO NURSE ME BACK TO HEALTH.
COME TO THINK OF IT, NISHI-MIYA DID SAY...

APPARENTLY, TWO WEEKS HAVE PASSED SINCE I FELL.
I'LL HAVE TO THANK HER LATER.

AND THAT IT MIGHT BE SHOWN AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL.
THANKS
SHE ALSO TOLD ME THAT NAGATSUKA HAS BEEN GETTING EVERYONE TOGETHER ON TUESDAYS AND RESTARTED PRODUCTION ON THE MOVIE.
ガラン
TELL EVERYONE I REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS?
I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM SINCE THAT DAY, HUH?
STOP IT...
YOU GUYS.
JUST GO HOME FOR TODAY.

I'LL COME TO SEE THEM.
BUT TELL THEM THIS:
TELL THEM.
YEAH.
WE HAVE ARRIVED AT YOUR DESTINATION, SIR. ♪
BRRRT
YO, MARIA! HOW YA BEEN?

...
ARE YOU WATER-ING THE ONIONS?
THATTA GIRL!
KLUNK
WAHHHHH!!
ARE YOU GONNA DIE?! ARE YOU GONNA DIE?!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HER?
WELL, I TOLD HER YOU WERE IN THE HOSPITAL, BUT...
I GUESS IT JUST HIT HER WHAT THAT MEANT.
ARE YOU GONNA DIE?!
IT'S OKAY, MARIA. SHOYA CAME BACK TO LIFE.
I NEVER DIED IN THE FIRST PLACE!

SUNDAY
SHO-TAN, YOU DEAD?
SHAKE
SNORT
HMM... WHAT IS IT? FOOD?
GRAMMA'S CALLING YOU.
KNOCK
KNOCK
WHY'RE WE HAVIN' DINNER SO EARLY TODAY?
THUNK

WHOA!
WEL-COME!!
HUH?
PARDON US.
GO PUT ON SOME PANTS! SHEESH!

HUH?!
OH! NO, THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT! DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANY-THING LIKE THAT!
NO! PLEASE TAKE IT!
WE HAVE INSURANCE! IT'S FINE!

ISHIDA-SAN, TAKE THIS.
IT WILL COVER THE HOSPITAL BILLS.

MA'AM...
WE HAVE BEEN TOO FORTUNATE!
PLEASE LET ME SET THINGS RIGHT!
THAT IS NOT THE ISSUE!
FWIP
HMM... IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T I TAKE THIS...
AND BUY US ALL SUSHI?

*NAME FOR CUCUMBER WHEN USED IN SUSHI

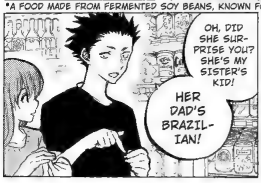
*PLANT IN THE MINT FAMILY USED IN ASIAN COOKING

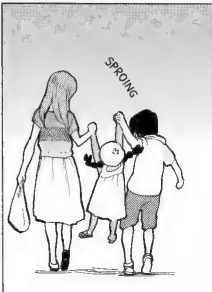
OH, AND YOUR SHOULDER...
COME TO THINK OF IT, ISHIDA-KUN...
DOES THE WOUND ON YOUR BEHIND STILL HURT?
C-COME ON! EAT MORE!
YOU'VE GOTTEN TOO SKINNY!
HOW IS NISHIMI... SHO... NISHIMIYA-SAN'S SHOULDER?
AND MY SHOULDER'S TOTALLY FINE...
OH, IT'S FINE NOW. IT JUST ITCHES A LITTLE.
PLOP
...
...
...

...
I'M SORRY.
YEAH, YEAH.
NO! IT'S NOT WHAT YOU'RE THINK-ING!
...
SORRY, ISHIDA.
HEH!
I'M SORRY, SHO-TAN.

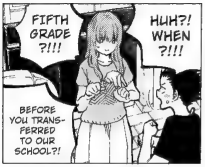
I WANT TO LET LOOSE!!
THIS IS A SERIOUS MATTER!
TONIGHT, WHY DON'T WE JUST LET LOOSE AND--
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT?
HEH HEH!
...
SHO-CHAN...
TAKE THE GIRLS OUT TO BUY SOME SNACKS.
FunFunMart

*A FOOD MADE FROM FERMENTED SOY BEANS, KNOWN FOR ITS STRONG ODOR



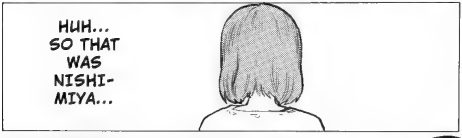


YEAH, SURE. NO PROBLEM.
HUH?
YOU WANT TO SEE THE INSIDE?
OF THE SALON?
...
...
!!!
WHOA! ARE YOU SERIOUS, SIS?!
WHAT IS IT?
HAIR PRESSER?
OH! LEAVE IT TO A HAIRDRESSER TO HAVE THE GOOD STUFF.


FIFTH GRADE ?!!!
HUH?! WHEN ?!!!
BEFORE YOU TRANSFERRED TO OUR SCHOOL?!

SHE SAYS SHE'S BEEN HERE ONCE BEFORE!!
!

OH, YOU WERE THE GIRL WITH THE BOB!
WOW...


HUH... SO THAT WAS NISHI-MIYA...

HEH!
SIS IS THE ONE WHO CUTS MY HAIR.
DID YOU KNOW THAT?

HUH. SO IT'S BECAUSE SHE MET A SKILLED STYLIST HERE, EH?
STUFF CAN HAPPEN RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSE, HUH?
WHAT IS?

WOW...
SHE DOES?
WE'RE BACK.
THUNK
BA-DUMP
WAIT, IS WHAT YOU JUST SAID TRUE?!
THEN, IN A HUFF, HE LEFT, ABANDONING BOTH THE SALON AND OUR FAMILY!
THAT'S RIGHT!
I KNOW, RIGHT?!
BWA-HAHA-HA!!
MEN WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT LOSING THEIR HAIR!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

TOLERANCE IS LOVE, MEDDLING IS ALSO LOVE. THESE TWO BIRDS OF A FEATHER FINALLY WORK THINGS OUT. NEXT TIME: "REUNITING WITH FRIENDS."

■TO BE CONTINUED

A SILENT VOICE

from: **Shoko Nishimiya**

sub: **Hello**

Everyone said they are going to the school festival tomorrow. The first showing of Nagatsuka-san's movie starts at 11:30, so I will meet you at the front gate at 10:00, okay?

CHAPTER 56: GOING TO SCHOOL

YOSHITOKI OIMA
UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE JAPANESE FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

GOOD MORN-ING.
GUH... GOOD...
THEN, I PRACTICED TALKING TO EVERYONE.
CHEESE!
CHEESE!
I EVEN PRACTICED MY SMILE.
AND TELLING THEM HOW I FEEL...
I'M SORRY...
I PRACTICED APOLOGIZING FOR THE THOUGHTLESS THINGS I SAID AT THE BRIDGE...
THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR HOW I BE-HAVED...
GOOD LUCK!
I'M HEAD-ING OUT, MOM!

LET'S GO.
MORN-
ING.
YEAH. WHY DON'T WE GET GOING?
FROM NOW ON, I WILL LOOK EVERYONE IN THE FACE AND SAY, "GOOD MORNING."
AND I WILL LISTEN... TO THEIR VOICES.
THE GOOD AND THE BAD.

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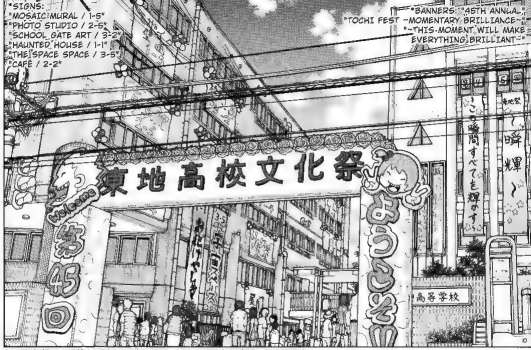


*GATE: "WELCOME!! TO THE 45TH ANNUAL TOCHI HIGH SCHOOL FESTIVAL"

IS HE LOOKING AT US?
WHO'S THAT?
I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU BEFORE...
BUT I DON'T REALLY FIT IN AT SCHOOL...
...

ISN'T THAT CREEPY?
OH.
SORRY. THE MOVIE'S GONNA START WITHOUT US, HUH?

I MEAN, SURE, PART OF IT IS MENTAL, BUT...
I'M JUST NOT GOOD AT THIS STUFF.
I HAVE TROUBLE EVEN LOOKING EVERYONE IN THE EYES.

SO IT'S EASIER IF I LOOK DOWN!

HUH? IT'S OKAY IF I LOOK DOWN?
BUT...
OH...
PULL ME?

YOU'LL PULL ME AROUND?
FOR REAL?

OH...
GRAB
I-I CAN WALK NORMALLY, YOU KNOW...
AHA!

WHAT AM I... SOME KIND OF IDIOT?
HEHEH
WHISPER
*POSTERS: "HAUNTED HOUSE," *CHINESE BUNS / 2-3," *LIGHT MUSIC CLUB / SUPER CONCERT," *ROMEO AND JULIET"
WHUMP
OH, ISHIDA-KUN! IS SHE YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
OH! YUZURU!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ATTRACTING CUSTOMERS!
I'M A FAIRY! HOW D'YA LIKE THAT?!
SHWIP
AH! HEY! WAIT!
GO IN!
THE MOVIE'S ABOUT TO START!

IT'S DARK... IN THAT CASE...
KREEK
...
UMMMMMM DUUUUUUM
OH, IT STARTED.
THUMP

BLACK AND WHITE AND SILENT, HUH?
IT'S LIKE AN OLD-TIMEY MOVIE.

GOD, I AM ABOUT TO HANG MYSELF.

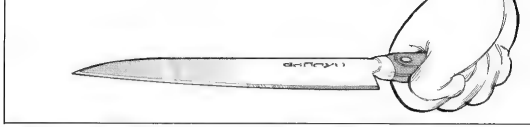
IF MY ROTTEN LIFE IS HEAVIER THAN MY ROTTEN FUTURE, PLEASE SEVER THIS ROPE.

PLUS, IT LOOKS LIKE THEY TOTALLY CHANGED THE TONE.
ALTHOUGH THE OLD ONE WASN'T VERY REALISTIC ANYWAY.

WH-WHO'S THERE?!

I WILL GRANT YOU THREE WISHES.

HEHEHEH! I DIDN'T KNOW GOD DRESSED SO FUNNY.
YUZURU.
I CAN WISH FOR ANYTHING?
IN THAT CASE, TAKE ME BACK TEN YEARS TO THE GUY WHO RUINED MY LIFE.
WHOA, I REALLY WENT BACK!
<HEE>
NAGATSUKA-KUN MUST'VE LURED IN SOME MORE KIDS WITH CANDY.



Dyyyyyeeeee!!

MY LIFE WAS RUINED BECAUSE OF YOUR TEASING! THIS IS MY REVENGE!
<HUH?> WHO ARE YOU?!
HE'S MY FORMER BEST FRIEND.

I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T KNOW IT BOTHERED YOU THAT MUCH...

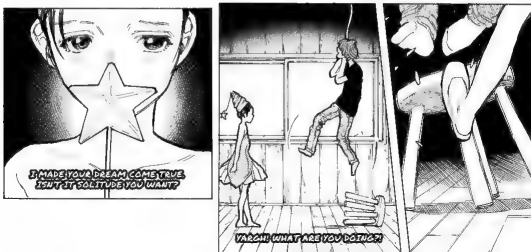
OH, IT'S NISHIMIYA.
EEEK! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

HUH? THEY CONVINCED THE SCHOOL TO LET THEM SHOOT THERE?!
...
WAIT, DOES THAT MEAN THEY WENT BACK TO TALK TO THEM AGAIN?
DID YOU, MASHIBA-KUN?
DOES THIS MEAN I LIVED ANOTHER WORTHLESS LIFE?
THAT'S ODD... I FEEL JUST AS EMPTY AS BEFORE.
I'M ASHAMED TO EVEN BE ALIVE.

I WANT TO GO SOMEWHERE WHERE THERE'S NO ONE AROUND.
HEY!
WOW, I DIDN'T KNOW MASHIBA-KUN COULD MAKE THAT FACE...

LONG TIME NO SEE, MISS FAIRY.
COME TO THINK OF IT, DIDN'T SAHARA... MAKE THAT COSTUME? WOW...
I SHALL GRANT THAT WISH.

I BET SHE CAN MAKE STUFF LIKE THAT BE-CAUSE SHE LOVES IT.
AND WAS IT UENO WHO DESIGNED IT? IT ISN'T HER STYLE AT ALL, BUT...


I MADE YOUR DREAM COME TRUE. ISN'T IT SOLITUDE YOU WANT?
YARGH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

DON'T BE HASTY!
AND KAWAI-SAN MUST HAVE WRITTEN IT.
I WOULDN'T HAVE GUESSED SHE COULD WRITE A STORY LIKE THIS.
TALK ABOUT IMPRESSIVE...
YOUR BEST FRIEND...
YOU'RE...
BUT, WHY...?
I WANTED TO PROVE MY FRIENDSHIP.
HEY! STAY WITH ME! YOU CAN'T DIE YET!

HEY, TAKE ME BACK!
I CANNOT. THAT HAS ALREADY TURNED INTO A DOLL IN YOUR SHAPE.
YOU DO NOT NEED THAT DOLL.
SOB
THEN, WHERE AM I GOING?
THERE ARE MANY THINGS I HAVEN'T NOTICED.
SEE? THERE'S STILL THINGS OUT THERE I DON'T KNOW.
OH, SO NAGATSUKA-KUN MADE THE MOVIE SO THAT NISHIMIYA COULD UNDERSTAND IT TOO.

fin
KLAP KLAP KLAP KLAP KLAP
...
TH... THAT WAS AWE-SOME !!!!

A STANDING OVATION FOR HIS FRIENDS' EFFORT! HOW WILL EVERYONE RESPOND TO THIS REUNION?!

■TO BE CONTINUED!

A SUDDEN REUNION!
YOSHITOKI OIMA
UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE JAPANESE FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

A SILENT VOICE
CHAPTER 57: REUNION

SFX: *WHUMP*
WHUMP
WHAT'S WRONG, ISHIDA?
HOW EMBARRASSING !!!!
GOIN' TO THE BATHROOM!

PLUS... WHAT DID I RUN FOR? I AM SUCH AN IDIOT...

I, A LOSER LIKE ME, WENT OUT THERE AND YELLED IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY.

HUFF

HUFF

HOW PATHETIC... HOW FRIGGIN' PATHETIC...

WHAT

NOKK NOKK

YA-SHO?

HOW DID YOU FIND ME?

YUZURU SAID... YOU WERE HERE...

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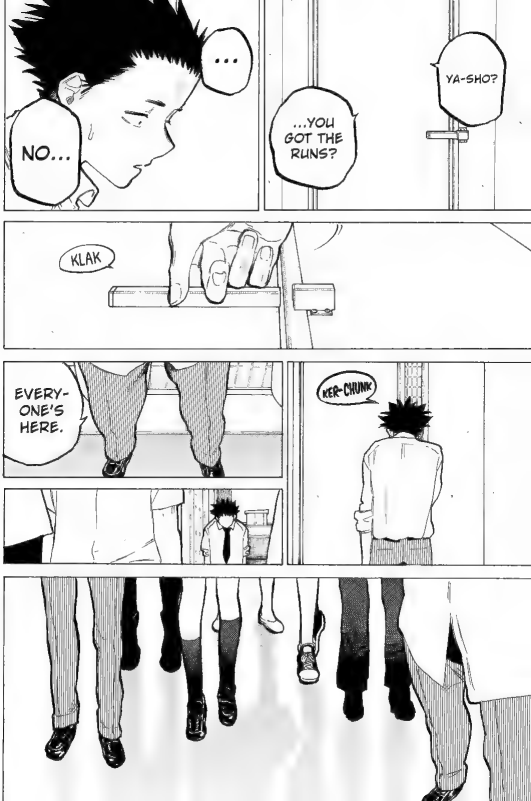

...
NO...
...YOU GOT THE RUNS?
YA-SHO?
KLAK
EVERY-ONE'S HERE.
KER-CHUNK

OH...
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT THE GROUND?
YA-SHO...
I GUESS I GOT SCARED.
BUT...
I-I ACTUALLY CAME PLANNING TO FACE YOU GUYS A LOT MORE HEAD ON...
AFTER I INSULTED YOU AT THE BRIDGE.
OF SEEING HOW YOU GUYS LOOK AT ME...
MAYBE I'M AFRAID...
AT ME?
CAN YOU LOOK...
ISHIDA-KUN.

YOU DIDN'T INSULT ME.
SHARP

ISHIDA-KUN...
SORRY I PUNCHED YOU THAT DAY.
IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN PUNCH ME BACK.
IT'S OKAY WITH ME.
NO...
I'M NOT GOING TO HIT YOU.
NAGATSUKA-KUN CALLS YOU "SERIOUS" AND "A FIERY MAN," BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE WAS RIGHT.
AFTER YOU FELL, THERE WERE BAD RUMORS GOING AROUND ABOUT YOU DOING SOMETHING STUPID AGAIN...
BUT NAGATSUKA-KUN TRIED TO CLEAR UP THE MISUNDERSTANDING AND TELL EVERYONE THE TRUTH.
HEH... NOT THAT ANYONE BELIEVED HIM THOUGH.

YA-SHO...
HOW WAS THE MOVIE?
I GREW IT FOR GOOD LUCK...
SO THAT YOU'D GET BETTER, YA-SHO.
D-DIDN'T I SAY?
IT WAS AWE-SOME.
...AND WHAT'S WITH THE MUS-TACHE?
OH, I ALMOST FORGOT!
KAWAI-SAN, WE'VE GOTTA GIVE HIM THE YOU-KNOW-WHAT.
HUH?!
BUT...IT WAS A TOTAL FAILURE... WE CAN'T GIVE HIM THAT...
?
WHY NOT?
LET'S GIVE IT TO HIM.
...
OKAY...

ISHIDA-KUN...
HERE...
THIS IS FROM EVERY-ONE...
IT'S, UM...
...A THOUSAND PAPER CRANES*.
...A THOU-SAND...
*OFTEN GIVEN TO THE SICK OR INJURED AS A "GET WELL" GIFT
I REAL-LY... WANTED TO...
RUSTLE
TO GET THE FULL THOUSAND, BUT...IT DIDN'T GO SO WELL...
...
I ASKED EVERYONE, BUT...
BUT I COULD-N'T...
COULDN'T GET EVEN HALF THAT MANY...

THANK YOU...
KAWAI-SAN.
NO, IT'S AMAZING!
THIS IS... PLENTY!
THIS IS GREAT!
I'VE NEVER GOTTEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE!
SO I'M REALLY HAPPY!!
SO NOW WE'RE ALL PRETENDING TO BE FRIENDS, ARE WE?
UGH, GAG ME WITH A FRIGGIN' SPOON.
YOU REALLY ARE NASTY, YOU KNOW THAT, NAO-CHAN?!
YOU'VE GOT AN AWFUL PERSONALITY!!
YOU'RE MAKING MY SKIN CRAWL.
HUH?! YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, KAWAI-CCHI!
NOW, NOW, SETTLE DOWN, YOU TWO.

OH.
YIKES!
FLAP
THAT WAS YOUR FAULT FOR GETTING IN THE WAY!
...
HAHA...
I'M SORRY, ISHIDA-KUN.
YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH...
BUT IT'S LIKE WE HAVEN'T CHANGED ONE BIT.
SAHARA-SAN...
CHIRP
CHIRP

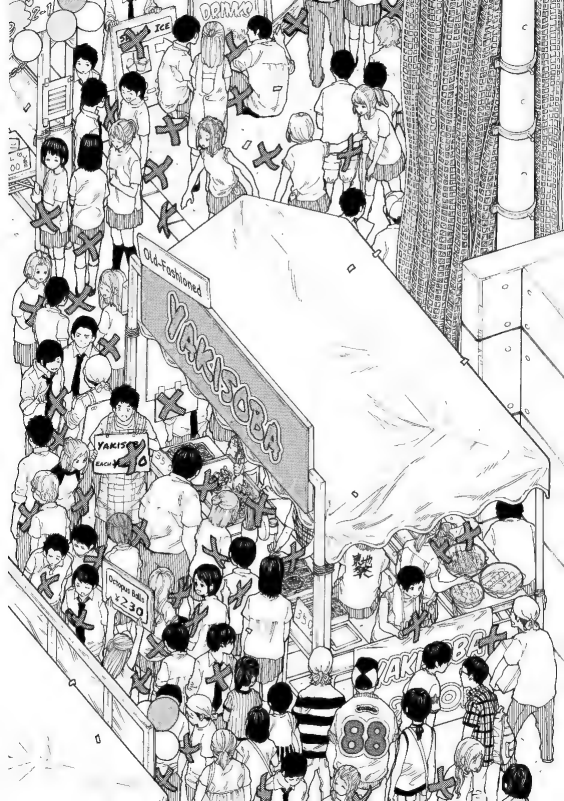
THERE'S SOME THINGS YOU JUST CAN'T CHANGE.
I KNOW THAT PERSONALLY.
I THINK IT'S THE TIME YOU SPEND TRYING TO CHANGE...
THAT'S MORE IMPORTANT.
OH, I GET IT.
HA! SHUT UP WITH THAT CRAP. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU.
HAHA... YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
BUT I HEARD YOU CAME TO SEE ME EVERY DAY WHILE I WAS OUT, RIGHT?
THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU EITHER.
<RED>
BUT...
THANKS.

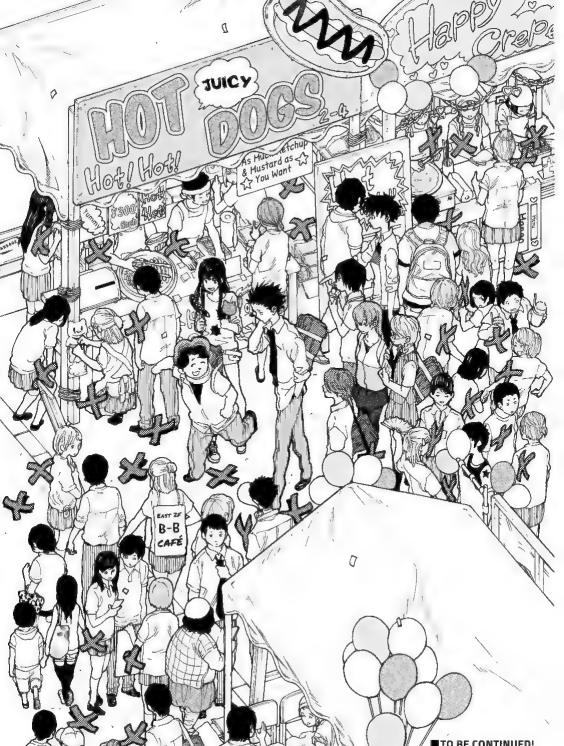
NO-THING.
WHAT?
OH, IT'S FINE FOR NOW, DON'T YOU THINK?
BUT, ISHIDA-KUN, SHE--
~BMPH!~
~HRNGH!~
EVERY-ONE...
...
WHEN THERE'S SO MUCH I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU...
FOR SAY-ING SUCH HURTFUL THINGS...
I'M SORRY...
AND...
THANK YOU.
I WANT US TO HAVE FUN...AND TO FIGHT.
SO I WANT US TO STAY FRIENDS FROM NOW ON...
I...I WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ALL OF YOU.
I WANT TO...
YEAH...
...
...I GUESS FIRST ...
SO... YEAH...WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

CHECK OUT THE FESTIVAL WITH YOU GUYS.
45TH ANNUAL TOCHI HIGH SCHOOL FES
PARK HIGH
I'LL LOOK AT EVERYTHING.
LISTEN TO EVERYTHING.
ISHIDA-KUN!
LONG TIME NO SEE!
LISTEN TO EVERY-THING.
SHRP
HUH?
YOU CAME TO SCHOOL ?!!!
LOOK AT EVERY-THING.
SHRP

HEY, ISN'T THAT ISHIDA-KUN?
DOES HE LOOK THINNER TO YOU?
DID YOU REALLY SAVE A GIRL?
THAT'S SERIOUSLY AWESOME, DUDE.
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD NOW, ISHIDA-KUN.

I'M AMAZED HE CAN EVEN SHOW HIS FACE AT SCHOOL.


Ice
DRINKS
Old-fashioned
YAKISOBA
YAKISOBA
EACH ¥
Ocean Ball
¥230
YAKISOBA
88



■TO BE CONTINUED!

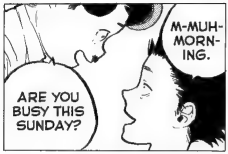
X MARKS FALL OFF IN UNISON. SHOYA'S NEW LIFE BEGINS TODAY.

MORNING.
MORN-ING.
MORNING!
A SILENT VOICE
SHOYA HAS SWORN TO "LISTEN TO EVERYONE'S VOICE!" THERE WILL BE NO MORE "X MARKS"!
MORNING.
YOSHITOKI OIMA
UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE JAPANESE FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

WHAT? YOUR BUTT'S DENTED?
YEAH, WHERE THE SCAR IS. YOU CAN EVEN FEEL IT.
YEAH, ALL THAT'S LEFT NOW IS A LITTLE DENT IN MY BUTT.
IS YOUR INJURY BETTER NOW?
REALLY?! THEN LET ME GIVE IT A FEEL!
SURE.
WAIT, IDIOT, PEOPLE ARE GONNA GET THE WRONG IDEA.
REAL-LY?
HAHAHA!

CHAPTER 58: RESULTS

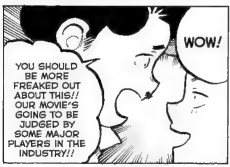
*THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ANY ACTUAL PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR EVENTS IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.


M-MUH-MORN-ING.
ARE YOU BUSY THIS SUNDAY?

I'VE GOT WORK.
HUH? IS SOMETHING HAPPENING SUNDAY?
THEN TAKE A DAY OFF.

HEY!! STOP YOUR SEXUAL HARASS-MENT!!
CAN'T YOU SEE YA-SHO DOESN'T LIKE IT?!
AND HERE'S NAGA-TSUKA-KUN!!

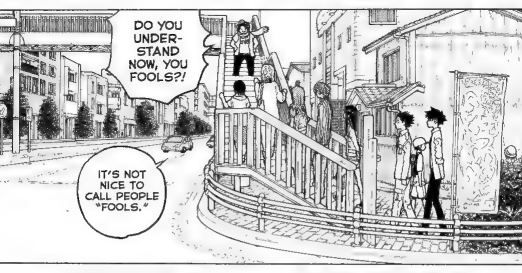
WE'RE ALL GOING TO AN EVENT:
THE MOVIE'S PUBLIC SCREEN-ING!!

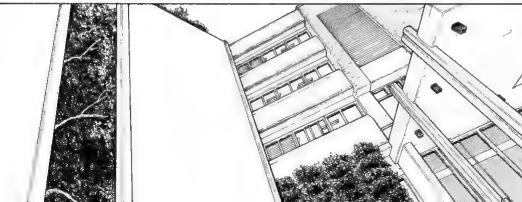

WOW!
YOU SHOULD BE MORE FREAKED OUT ABOUT THIS!! OUR MOVIE'S GOING TO BE JUDGED BY SOME MAJOR PLAYERS IN THE INDUSTRY!!

OH!
"OH"?
DON'T YOU "OH" ME!! WE, OUR MOVIE, MADE IT PAST THE PRELIMI-NARIES!!

FIRST, THERE'S THE JAPANESE CINEMA COORDINATION COUNCIL CHAIRMAN YOKOSHITA.
THEN THERE'S HIS SON, THE ACTOR SOMMELIER SOU YOKOSHITA.
AND THERE'S EVEN A SPECIAL GUEST COMING: STORY ANALYST AND ACCLAIMED EDITOR TATSUKI HAGATAN!!!

WOW, THAT DOES SOUND LIKE AN IMPRESSIVE EVENT.
THAT'S RIGHT! AND SINCE WE'RE GETTING JUDGED BY THOSE *IMPRESSIVE* PEOPLE, IT MEANS WE ARE *IMPRESSIVE* AS WELL!!


DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW, YOU FOOLS?!
IT'S NOT NICE TO CALL PEOPLE "FOOLS."



NOW, YOUR THOUGHTS ON NAGATSUKA-KUN'S MOVIE, HAGATANI-SENSEI?
THUMP THUMP
IF I WANTED TO WATCH HIM MASTURBATE, I WOULD HAVE PEEPED IN HIS BEDROOM AT NIGHT.
OH, I'M FIGHTING BACK THE LAUGHTER AS WE SPEAK.

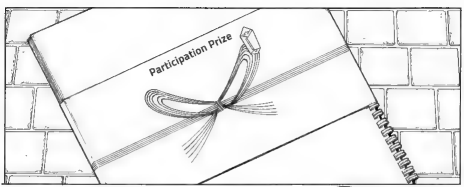
...
HEY, KID.
WHY'D YOU MAKE IT A BLACK AND WHITE SILENT FILM?
I BET YOU WANTED TO BE CHAPLIN, RIGHT? THAT'S JUST LIKE SOMETHING YOU LITTLE POSERS WOULD DO.
UM...
HUH?
AMATEURS LIKE YOU WITH LITTLE EXPERIENCE OFTEN GET TOO FULL OF THEMSELVES AND PRODUCE THIS KIND OF DRECK, BUT, TO BE HONEST, IT JUST SMACKS OF AN OVERINFLATED EGO.
AW? REALLY? BUT, YOU KNOW...
SUB-TITLES FOR... SOMEONE WHO CAN'T HEAR...
WE WANT-ED...
CHAPLIN? NO...
WH-WHAT?
FOR GOOD LUCK...AND THIS IS JUST THE WAY IT GREW...
WAIT... I ONLY GREW THIS...
EVEN YOUR WORK REEKS OF YOUR RANCID NARCISSISM.
THAT MUSTACHE OF YOURS TELLS ME ALL I NEED TO KNOW.

FLINCH
THERE'S NO ROOM IN ART FOR EXCUSES!
"SOMEONE WHO CAN'T HEAR"? "FOR GOOD LUCK"? I CAN SPOT LITTLE HACKS LIKE YOU WHO ONLY CARE ABOUT APPEARANCES AT A GLANCE!
H-
HRN-GH!
...
THEN HOW... COULD I MAKE...IT BETTER...
SIR?
GOOD QUESTION! THE FIRST STEP TO IMPROVEMENT IS KNOWING WHAT YOU DID WRONG.
FIRST, THERE'S THE SCRIPT!
EVERYTHING SOUNDS FORCED AND THERE'S NO SUBSTANCE, JUST GARBAGE ARRANGED IN AN ATTEMPT TO DISGUISE THAT FACT. IT MAKES ME SICK!
THEN, THERE'S THE FAIRY COSTUME!
THE DESIGN AND MATERIAL WERE SO CHEAP-LOOKING I THOUGHT I WAS WATCHING A PORNO!

I DON'T THINK I COULD BEAR IT ANOTHER SECOND!
THAT MELODY WAS TOO HEAVY FOR THE CHEAP-LOOKING VISUALS!
AND THE MUSIC WAS JUST AS BAD!
THAT KID'S EYEBROWS WERE SO THICK I COULDN'T CONCENTRATE ON THE STORY!
AND, FINALLY, THE LEAD!
I'M SORRY, EVERY-BODY.
...
THIS IS EXACTLY THE KIND OF MOVIE I'D EXPECT OUT OF A TWISTED CREEP LIKE YOU!!
AND YOU WANTED TO CAMOUFLAGE THAT DESIRE WITH A "DEEP" STORY SO WE'D SHOWER IT WITH PRAISE!!
YOU JUST WANTED TO FILM A CUTE, TINY COSPLAY GIRL, DIDN'T YOU?!
TELL ME THE TRUTH, NAGA-TSUKA-KUN!

ER..UH... THEN, WHY DON'T WE MOVE ON TO THE NEXT FILM?
NOD

THANK YOU, NAGA-TSUKA-KUN.
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP


Participation Prize

WOO-HOO!

YOU CAN HAVE THIS, YUZURU.

Art Gallery

WHAT DO THEY MEAN, MY COSTUME BELONGS IN A PORNO?
THEY DIDN'T GET IT AT ALL...
SIGH
...

I'M REALLY PISSED!
YEAH, THEY RAKED US OVER THE COALS.
...
HEY, WAS MY COSTUME REALLY THAT BAD?
NOT AT ALL!
AND THE MUSIC WAS GOOD TOO, WASN'T IT?!
YEAH, IT WAS GREAT!
...
MY SCRIPT ONLY TURNED OUT THAT WAY BECAUSE I LISTENED TO YOU, NAGATSUKA-KUN!!
CUT IT OUT. WE ALL HEARD IT TOO.
PLUS, THEY CRITICIZED KAWAI-SAN AND MASHIBA-KUN AS WELL.
BEFORE YOU START BLAMING OTHERS, MAYBE YOU SHOULD CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY YOUR DESIGN SKILLS AREN'T UP TO SNUFF?
HUH? YOU'RE BLAMING IT ALL ON ME?
HE WENT UP THERE DRESSED LIKE A LOSER SO THAT'S HOW THEY SAW OUR MOVIE!
THEN THAT MEANS IT'S FATTY'S FAULT!!
DON'T BLAME ME! EVERYONE FELT THE SAME WAY!
YOU WANTED FAIRIES! AND FANTASY! NOT TO MENTION FAIRIES!
NOT EVEN CLOSE! IT WAS BECAUSE YOU TRIED TO STICK IN ALL THOSE WEIRD ELEMENTS!

IH WAH GWEAD, EWY-BODY!
IH WAH GWEAD!
AND IT WAS MY MOVIE ANY-WAY!!
I'M THE ONE WHO COVERED THE SHOOT-ING EX-PENSES!!
IS THAT ANY WAY TO TALK TO ME AFTER I HELPED YOU?!
DON'T BE STUPID!!
DIDN'T I SAY YOU WERE ALL AWE-SOME?!

THE MOVIE WAS WELL MADE!
THOSE JUDGES JUST DIDN'T GET IT!
I'M GONNA GO ASK THEM TO WATCH IT AGAIN.
STOP IT, ISHIDA. YOU LAME ASS...
BUT EVERY-ONE WORKED SO HARD TO MAKE IT...
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO BE AC-KNOWLEDGED BY THOSE PIECES OF SHIT?

OH...
OH? YOU'RE THE FELLOW WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF MUSIC...
I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO SEE THAT.
HERE IS YOUR FEE.
WE DID IT IN OUR SPARE TIME, SO WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?
AND DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, UENO?

THAT'S RIGHT.
THIS WAS JUST A WAY TO KILL SOME TIME.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, SAHARA?
UENO! EVERYONE GAVE THIS THEIR ALL, SO--

YEP.
IT SURE IS.
I DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO THINK THIS IS THE BEST I CAN DO!
DON'T YOU GUYS FEEL THE SAME?
Y... YEAH, I GUESS.
I DID HAVE TO WRITE IT BETWEEN SCHOOL-WORK.
YEAH.
COME TO THINK OF IT...
THAT'S RIGHT. I ONLY USED ABOUT 30% OF MY FULL POTENTIAL.

LET'S GET SOMETHING TO DRINK!
ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY!
I'M BUYIN'!
...
YEAH.
GLUG
THANKS.
HERE YOU ARE.
SO?
NOW WHAT?
AHHH! THAT HIT THE SPOT!
GASP

24 Hours
P
Jonthan's
I THINK I'M GONNA HAVE THE RAMEN.
YOU'RE GOING STRAIGHT TO DESSERT?
I WANT A PARFAIT.
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA ORDER?
ER...
WE DON'T HAVE ALL NIGHT.
ARE YOU READY YET, LITTLE NISHIMIYA?
HAS EVERYONE DECIDED?
...
WHAT?
HEY, WHY DON'T YOU JUST ORDER THE KIDDY LUNCH?
KIDDY MENU
HUH?

■TO BE CONTINUED! *ADULTS CAN ONLY JUDGE A SMALL PART OF US. OUR SMILES AND OUR TEARS ARE OURS ALONE.*

*THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ANY ACTUAL PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR EVENTS IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

HEY, GUYS.

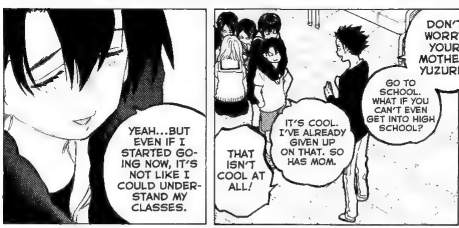
NICE JOB!
MAN, YOU WERE REALLY COOL OUT THERE!

THANKS.

OH, HEY! DID YOU TAKE ANY PICTURES, YUZURU?
YOU KNOW IT.
BUT I'VE NEVER SHOT AN EVENT LIKE THIS BEFORE, SO THEY MIGHT HAVE COME OUT WEIRD.
LOOK, NAO-CHAN, ISHIDA-KUN AND THE NISHIMIYAS ARE HERE.
REALLY?
IT LOOKS LIKE A PRO TOOK THEM!
OH, THESE ARE NICE!
WHOA! SETTLE DOWN, GIRLS!
THAT PHOTO IS REALLY PRECIOUS!
BECAUSE YOU'RE GRADUATING, SENPAI!
NOT FOR SIX MORE MONTHS!
BUT IT'S GOING TO BE SOOO LONELY WITHOUT YOU!
HEY, KID...
SEND ME THE DATA!!
HOW MUCH PER SHOT?!!
SELL ME THAT PHOTO!!

YOU'VE GOT MORE PHOTOS LIKE THIS, DON'T YOU?!
DON'T YOU WANT TO COME TO OUR SCHOOL?
ARE YOU IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?
MIDDLE SCHOOL... I'M A THIRD YEAR...
...
ARE THEY GOOD FRIENDS?
YES.
SHE'S MY... SISTER'S FRIEND...
HOW DO YOU KNOW SAHARA-SENPAI, KIDDO?

WHAT?! YUZURU-CHAN'S STILL NOT GOING TO SCHOOL?!
...
GREAT! LOOKS LIKE YUZURU SETTLED ON A GOOD HIGH SCHOOL!
HELP ME...


YEAH...BUT EVEN IF I STARTED GOING NOW, IT'S NOT LIKE I COULD UNDERSTAND MY CLASSES.
THAT ISN'T COOL AT ALL!
IT'S COOL. I'VE ALREADY GIVEN UP ON THAT. SO HAS MOM.
GO TO SCHOOL... WHAT IF YOU CAN'T EVEN GET INTO HIGH SCHOOL?
DON'T WORRY YOUR MOTHER, YUZURU.

WE'VE GOTTA GET TO TOKYO!
THEY'RE ANNOUNCING THE RESULTS OF THE FASHION CONTEST I TOLD YOU ABOUT!
HUH? ARE YOU GOING SOMEWHERE?
OH, WE'D BETTER GET GOING SOON.

!
YEP! AND I GOT PERMISSION TO MISS SCHOOL, BOUGHT BUS TICKETS, AND BOOKED A HOTEL WITHOUT ASKING TOO!
LET'S GO, NAO-CHAN.
HUH? WHAT? WHY DO I HAVE TO GO?
IT'S FOR THE FAIRY COSTUME WE MADE TOGETHER!
YOU DIDN'T SUBMIT THAT WITH MY NAME ON IT, DID YOU?!
WITHOUT EVEN ASKING!!
HUH?!
DON'T WORRY. THERE'S A CASH PRIZE.
AREN'T THEY POSTING THE RESULTS ONLINE?! I DON'T HAVE THE MONEY FOR ALL THAT!!
SEE YA!

YEAH, ISN'T IT COOL THEY'RE GOING TO TOKYO?
IT'S GREAT THAT THEY HAVE DREAMS.

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO AFTER YOU GRADUATE, NISHIMIYA?

...

YOU'RE STUCK BETWEEN WHAT YOU WANT TO DO...
AND...
WHAT YOUR MOM WANTS YOU TO DO?

YOU'RE NOT SURE?

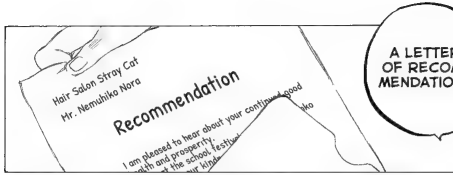
SHE'S TRYING TO DECIDE WHICH TO CHOOSE, HUH?
OH, YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY GO WITH THE ONE *YOU* WANT TO DO.
OTHERWISE, YOU'LL REGRET IT.
AND I'LL CHEER YOU ON EVERY STEP OF THE WAY!
...
SO? WHAT IS IT YOU WANT TO DO?
...
...

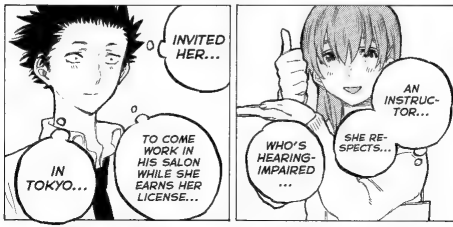
NOD
NOD
YOU DON'T WANT TO SAY?

...
I WON'T LAUGH!
AW, COME ON! TELL ME!

SMILE

OH!
HUH! WOW!
"HAIR-DRESSER," RIGHT?
ER, LET'S SEE... THAT'S THE SIGN FOR...
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WANTED TO BE A HAIR-DRESSER!
MY MOM CUTS HAIR TOO! I'M SURE YOU CAN DO IT, NISHIMIYA!
WAIT... CAN SHE DO IT?
OH, WHAT'S THAT?


Hair Salon Stray Cat
Mr. Nemuhiko Nora
Recommendation
A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION?


INVITED HER...
TO COME WORK IN HIS SALON WHILE SHE EARNS HER LICENSE...
IN TOKYO...
AN INSTRUCTOR...
SHE RESPECTS...
WHO'S HEARING-IMPAIRED...

WOW, BUT YOU WANT TO STAY IN THE AREA, RIGHT, NISHIMIYA?

...TOKYO?

...
NOD

YOU CAN'T GO TO TOKYO !!!!

T-
TOKYO'S A SCARY PLACE!!
IF YOU GO THERE ALL ALONE...
THERE'S A LOT OF CRIME!! AND TONS OF MURDERS!!
YOU'LL BE HASSLED BY WEIRDOS!!

...
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO GO TO THAT KIND OF PLACE?!
P-
P-
P-
PLUS...
IT'S REALLY, *REALLY* FAR!
WHAT ABOUT YUZURU? SHE'S NOT EVEN GOING TO SCHOOL!
SHE'LL BE SO LONELY SHE MIGHT CRY EVERY DAY!
AND I'M SURE YOUR MOM WILL BAWL HER EYES OUT!
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO GO BAD ENOUGH TO MAKE YOUR FAMILY CRY?!

NISHI-
MIYA?!

WHAP

...
...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, ISHIDA?
I'LL CRY.
WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO?! WON'T YOU CRY?!
I KNOW THAT.
WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO, YUZURU?! NISHIMIYA SAYS SHE'S GOING TO TOKYO!!
BUT I THINK THE OLD SIS WOULD HAVE JUST QUIETLY CHOSEN TO STAY NEAR HOME.
I KNOW THAT'S A TOTALLY NATURAL THING...
STARTED THINKING ABOUT HER FUTURE.
BUT THIS MEANS SHE'S...

THEN HOW DO WE STOP HER?!

...

WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO?!
I GUESS SHE GOT THE IDEA FROM SAHARA AND UENO, BUT SHE'S NOT LIKE THEM. SHE CAN'T HEAR.
SHE ISN'T THINKING STRAIGHT.

YOU SHOULD GO HOME AND CALM DOWN A LITTLE TOO.
I'M GONNA GO HOME.

GOOD IDEA.
I'LL GO HOME AND THINK ABOUT...
HOW TO STOP HER.

HUH?
HOW WOULD YOU STOP NISHIMIYA, MOM?
DO YOU REALLY NEED TO STOP HER?
OF COURSE I DO!! WHO WOULD-N'T?!
SIZZLE
WELL, IF THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE MONEY OR SOMETHING, I'D STOP HER...
BUT IF THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM, I'D HEAR HER OUT FIRST, AND IF--
YUZURU EVEN SAID SHE WAS GONNA CRY WHEN SHE LEFT, THE POOR KID! THERE'S NO WAY A GIRL CAN LIVE IN TOKYO ALL BY HERSELF!
WHEN I BROUGHT THAT UP, SHE GOT MAD AND RAN OFF!
BUT WHAT ABOUT ALL THE MURDERS AND STUFF IN TOKYO!!
IS THAT NISHIMIYA-SAN?
NO, IT'S FROM SAHARA.
GO CHANGE OUT OF YOUR SCHOOL CLOTHES.
FOR THE MOMENT, WHY DON'T WE FOCUS ON EATING DINNER?
JINGA-LING

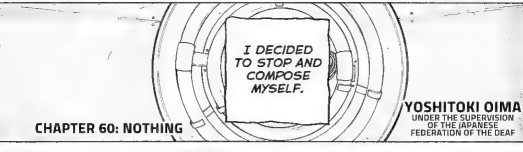
sub: **Ishida-kun!**

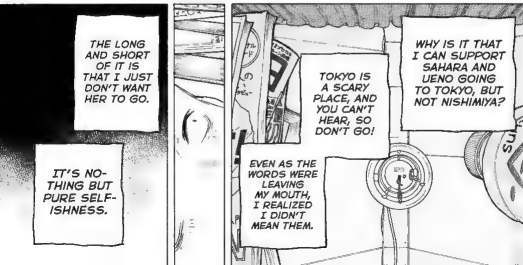
We're going to Tokyo next year!!

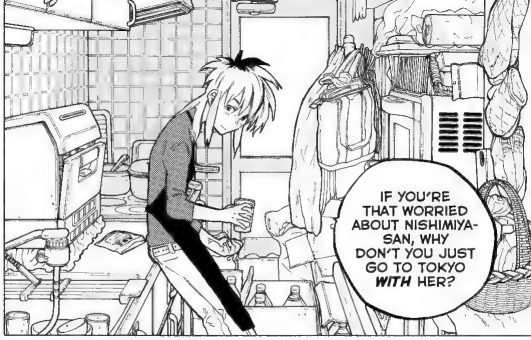
(つ＾∀＾) b

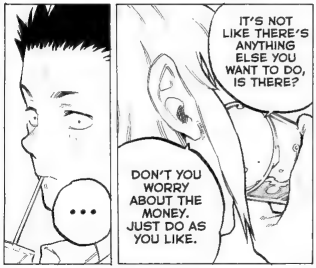
TOKYO, A CITY OF DREAMS. AND NOW SHOKO, WHO HE SWORE TO SUPPORT, SAYS SHE IS GOING THERE. WHAT SHOULD HE DO?

A SILENT VOICE
NISHIMIYA'S GOING TO TOKYO?! ISHIDA: CURRENTLY DEFLATED TO THE MAX!!
Tokyo Public Safety Map
CLOWN


I DECIDED TO STOP AND COMPOSE MYSELF.
CHAPTER 60: NOTHING
YOSHITOKI OIMA
UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE JAPANESE FEDERATION OF THE DEAF


THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT IS THAT I JUST DON'T WANT HER TO GO.
IT'S NOTHING BUT PURE SELFISHNESS.
TOKYO IS A SCARY PLACE, AND YOU CAN'T HEAR, SO DON'T GO!
EVEN AS THE WORDS WERE LEAVING MY MOUTH, I REALIZED I DIDN'T MEAN THEM.
WHY IS IT THAT I CAN SUPPORT SAHARA AND UENO GOING TO TOKYO, BUT NOT NISHIMIYA?





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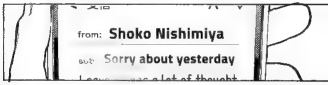


I guess that alone isn't a very good reason to go, is it?

There is Yuzuru to worry about as well. And I would be lonely leaving my family, not to mention you and the others.

I can earn my license from anywhere, so I'll work on that closer to home instead of in Tokyo. p(^^)q

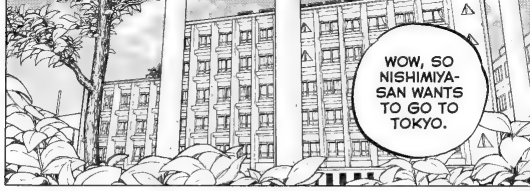
sub: Sorry about yesterday

I gave things a lot of thought since yesterday.

The truth is, a part of me was fascinated by Tokyo. But I guess that alone isn't a very good reason to go, is it?

There is Yuzuru to worry about as well. And I would be

can earn my license from anywhere, so maybe I'll wo closer to home instead of i Tokyo. p(^^)q


WOW, SO NISHIMIYA-SAN WANTS TO GO TO TOKYO.

I DON'T KNOW *HOW* TO REPLY.
NO... NOT YET.

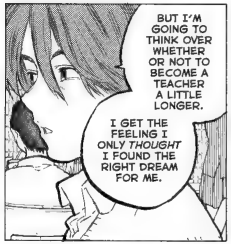
HUH?
WHY NOT JUST TELL HER YOU'LL GO ***WITH*** HER?

YEESH...
MY MOM SAID THE SAME THING.

HAVE YOU REPLIED YET?
I THINK IT'D BE A BIG WASTE NOT TO GO.

YEAH... ALTHOUGH IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING I REALLY WANT TO DO...
WERE YOU PLANNING TO GO TO A LOCAL COLLEGE, ISHIDA-KUN?

I'LL SOMETIMES CATCH MYSELF WONDERING IF ANY WEIRDOS CAME IN...OR THINKING ABOUT HOW SCARY THAT LAST GUY WAS...
WATCHING MY MOM TEND TO CUSTOMERS PUTS ME ON EDGE...
I JUST SORT OF FIGURED I'D...
STAY AROUND HERE MY WHOLE LIFE.
I'M THE ONLY MAN AROUND THE HOUSE...
SO I'VE ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT HER.
I'VE NEVER EVEN *THOUGHT* ABOUT LEAVING HOME...
I'M GOING TO FILM SCHOOL!
I'M DOING MY BEST TO CONVINCE MY PARENTS!
OHHH!
HUH.
YOU GUYS AREN'T HAVING TROUBLE DECIDING? YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING AFTER WE GRADUATE?


BUT I'M GOING TO THINK OVER WHETHER OR NOT TO BECOME A TEACHER A LITTLE LONGER.
I GET THE FEELING I ONLY *THOUGHT* I FOUND THE RIGHT DREAM FOR ME.

I MEANT THAT IN A **GOOD** WAY.
WHAT? ARE YOU LOOKING TO START A WAR?
HEHEH! YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN TO QUIT, DO YOU, NAGATSUKA-KUN?
YEP. I'M GOING TO KUISE UNIVERSITY.
YOU'RE GOING TO BE A TEACHER, RIGHT, MASHIBA-KUN?

OH... IS THAT RIGHT?

...

RIGHT NOW, WE'RE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS...
BUT ONCE WE GRADUATE, WE'LL BE **NOTHING.**
SO WE'VE GOTTA FIND WHAT WE WANT TO DO FAST.

TO THE SAME ONE AS YOU. ♪
ME?
WHICH SCHOOL ARE YOU GOING TO, KAWAI-SAN?
AHA! DO YOU LIKE ME THAT MUCH?

YEP!
KAWAI-SAN.
...
YOU SHOULD DO WHAT *YOU* WANT TO DO.
YEAH!

THIS IS WHAT I WANT TO DO.
THIS IS ME.
OKAY!
REAL-LY?
THEN, GO FOR IT!
HEY NOW, MASHIBA-KUN! IF YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED, YOU'VE GOTTA TURN HER DOWN FIRMLY!
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT KAWAI-SAN?!
YEP, ALMOST AS MUCH AS I LIKE KIDS.
REAL-LY?
HUH?
HMM?
I LIKE HER.
I LIKE KIDS TOO.
WOW, SHE'S PRETTY HIGH ON THE LIST.
SO SHE COMES IN AROUND THIRD.
...

WELCOME HOME.

...
WHAT IS IT?

...

WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO BE A HAIR-DRESSER, MOM?

IS THAT ALL?
THAT'S ALL!

SNIP, SNIP!
WELL, IT LOOKS FUN, DOESN'T IT?

OH!
I ALMOST FORGOT. TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!

THIS IS THE PHOTO NISHIMIYA SENT IN.
OHH!
ISN'T THAT INCRED-IBLE?
YUZU-CHAN WON THE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE CITY CONTEST!
PHOTOS

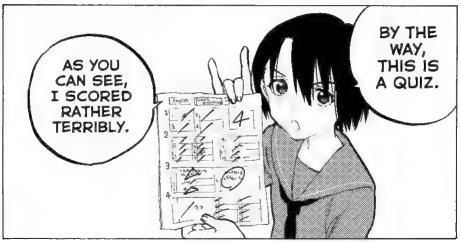
OH.
OKAY.
YUZU-CHAN'S HERE RIGHT NOW, SO WHY DON'T YOU TAKE HER THE GELATIN IN THE FRIDGE?

HEY, YUZURU. CONGRATS ON WINNING THAT CONTEST.

HAVE A SEAT.
INDEED.

NOW HURRY UP AND TAKE A SEAT.
IN-DEED.
YOU LOOK GOOD IN YOUR WINTER UNIFORM!

D-DID YOU GO TO SCHOOL?!


AS YOU CAN SEE, I SCORED RATHER TERRIBLY.
BY THE WAY, THIS IS A QUIZ.

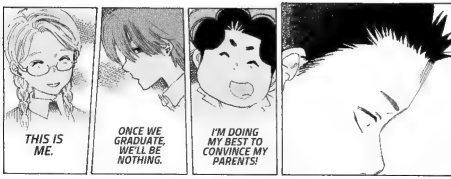
HAVE MERCY, KIND SIR! YOU MUST HELP ME!
I'M IN IT DEEP THIS TIME.
OHH, YOU'RE RIGHT. THAT IS BAD.
I JUST BARELY MANAGED TO KEEP SHOKO AND MOM FROM SPOTTING IT.
SURE.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE FINALLY GOTTEN MOTIVATED, HUH?
INDEED. IT IS THAT TIME AFTER ALL.
SURE.
I'LL LOOK OVER IT FOR YOU, SO...
TO START, WHY DON'T YOU SEE HOW MUCH YOU CAN DO BY YOURSELF?
MIND IF WE TAKE CARE OF MY HOMEWORK FIRST?
Math

THEN, HERE YOU DO THIS.
KAW

SCRUBBA SCRUBBA
...

INDEED.

FWIP


THIS IS ME.
ONCE WE GRADUATE, WE'LL BE NOTHING.
I'M DOING MY BEST TO CONVINCE MY PARENTS!

YUZURU...
NISHIMIYA SAID...
SHE'S GONNA GIVE UP ON GOING TO TOKYO.
I KNOW.
SIS...
IS THE ONE WHO GAVE ME THIS CHANCE TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL...
WITH THAT PHOTO...
I GUESS IT'S PRETTY HARD FOR HER TO LEAVE...
WITH ME STILL IN THIS SHAPE, HUH?
EVERYONE PRAISED IT AT SCHOOL TODAY...
EVEN PEOPLE I DIDN'T KNOW.
SO I'VE GOTTA LIVE UP TO THOSE EXPECTATIONS.

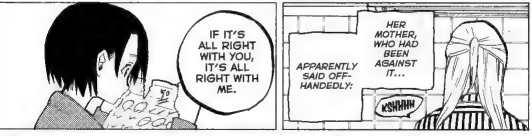
YOU SHOULD STUDY HARD AND GET A HUNDRED.
THEN, ON THE NEXT TEST...
YEAH.
...
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT? I SHOULD PROBABLY AIM FOR AROUND THIRTY...
OR SIS MIGHT GET SO RELIEVED SHE ACTUALLY RUNS OFF TO TOKYO.
SHE MIGHT.
BUT THAT'S FOR THE BEST.
YEAH.
WILL YOU BE OKAY?

YEAH.
THEN, IS IT OKAY IF I TELL HER I SUPPORT HER GOING TO TOKYO?
SUIDA

SHE THANKED ME AND SAID SHE WOULD THINK IT OVER CAREFULLY...
AND THAT SHE WOULD SUPPORT MY DREAM AS WELL.
I GOT A REPLY FROM NISHIMIYA.
MY DREAM...
SO... WHAT ABOUT ME?
AND THE OTHERS WILL DO WHAT THEY WANT.
BUT I'M SURE NISHIMIYA WILL DO WHAT SHE WANTS.
I'VE BARELY EVEN THOUGHT THAT FAR AHEAD.
WHAT WILL I BECOME?
THE BOY WORRIES, STRUGGLES, AND TIME PASSES. OUR STORY REACHES ITS CLIMAX. ■ TO BE CONTINUED!

A SILENT VOICE

CHAPTER 61: GRADUATION



SO I WANT TO DECIDE MY FUTURE SOON TOO.
KUISE HAIRD SCHOOL GU
OH, SHE DID? WELL, THAT'S A RELIEF.
YOSHITOKI OIMA
UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE JAPANESE FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

"THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ANY ACTUAL PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR EVENTS IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

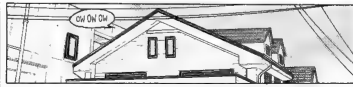
WHAT WILL YOU DO...
...IF I DON'T?

H-HEY, WAIT!
MOM!!

GET OUT OF MY BED!!
OH, YOU KNOW.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

I JUST WANTED TO TALK.

I WILL THROW PEANUTS AT YOU.

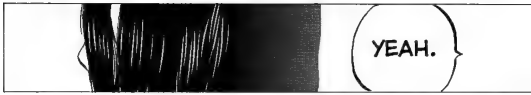

OH OH OH

I'M GOING TO TOKYO.

YEAH.
I HEAR NISHIMIYA-SAN'S GO-ING TOO.

YEAH, I HEARD FROM SAHARA.

IF YOU LIKE HER THAT MUCH, WHY DON'T YOU...
COME TO TOKYO WITH US?


YEAH.

I THINK I'LL GO TO SCHOOL SO I CAN TAKE OVER THE SALON.

I THOUGHT ABOUT THAT FOR A SECOND...
BUT I'M GONNA STAY HERE AND DO WHAT I'VE ALWAYS FIGURED I'D DO ONE DAY...

YOU MAY NOT KNOW THIS, BUT THEY'RE TOTALLY DIFFERENT...
I MEAN, THE CERTIFICATIONS AND STUFF. WE JUST DO HAIR.
SHE'S GOING TO BE A BEAUTICIAN, NOT A HAIRDRESSER.
NISHIMIYA?
SIGH...
SO...
THE SAME AS NISHIMIYA-SAN THEN.
HUH.
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, DO YOU?!
AT THE VERY LEAST ...
...
THERE'S THREE THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW!
NUMBER ONE!
NISHIMIYA-SAN DOESN'T WANT TO BE A BEAUTICIAN, SHE WANTS TO BE A HAIRDRESSER!
HUH? OH... Y... YEAH...
NUMBER TWO!
WHAT? NO WAY...
YES WAY! SAHARA TOLD ME!
ISN'T THAT GREAT? ♪

THEY TOLD ME NOT TO TELL YOU, BUT I'M GOING TO DO IT ANYWAY.
WHEN YOU FELL IN THE RIVER AND ALMOST DIED...
THE ONES WHO FISHED YOU OUT WERE SHIMADA AND HIROSE.
THEY SAID THEY SPOTTED YOU AT THE FESTIVAL...
AND FOLLOWED YOU BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT IT'D BE FUNNY.
...
BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...
THEY REALLY DID...LIKE YOU...
YOU KNOW?
BUT THEN, I GUESS...
THAT SORT OF CHANGED.
I THINK THEY WANTED TO ERASE THE FACT THAT YOU WERE EVER FRIENDS...
AND... SO DID I...
...

I'M SORRY, ISHIDA...
I WROTE ON YOUR DESK TOO.
...
YEAH.
I'M JUST...
AN AWFUL PERSON...
...
YEAH.
I BAD-MOUTHED NISHIMIYA-SAN...
AND PUT DIRT IN HER SHOES...

...
YEAH.
EVEN AFTER ALL THIS...
I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO LIKE HER...
I DON'T WANT TO LIKE HER.
BACK WHEN I WAS STILL FRIENDS WITH SHIMADA AND HIROSE...
WHEN I TALKED TO THEM, THEY ALWAYS RESPONDED THE WAY I EXPECTED.
SO I FELT LIKE I KNEW EVERYTHING ABOUT THEM.
THEN...
THEY BECAME THE ONES I UNDERSTOOD LEAST...
AND ALL I COULD DO WAS WONDER WHY...
WELL, IT WAS MY OWN FAULT THOUGH...
BUT NOW...
IT FEELS LIKE I COULD OVERCOME THAT ANYTIME.

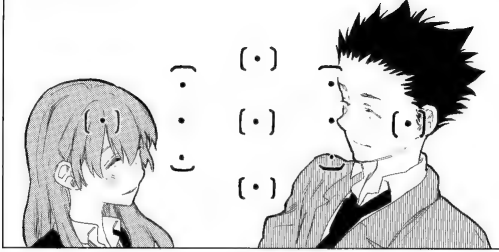
I'LL DO MY BEST TOO...
PLUS, WE STILL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME.
WHAT YOU LIKE AND WHAT YOU DON'T ISN'T EVERYTHING.
I THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CHANGE WHEN YOU REALLY NEED TO.
I THINK YOU'RE FINE THE WAY YOU ARE, UENO.
YEAH.
I WAS... TRYING TO CHEER YOU UP...
OH... AM I?
WHOOPS, I GOTTA GET HOME...
OH...
:SIGH:
YOU'RE SO SOFT...
Y...
USE YOUR OWN BRAIN FOR ONCE, IDIOT!
WHAT'S THE LAST ONE?!
WAIT, YOU DIDN'T TELL ME THE THIRD THING I DON'T KNOW!

THAT GIRL HITS YOU LIKE A HURRICANE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE'S THINKING...
NISHI-MIYA.
Y-YO...
SHE'S HERE.
WOW, THE CARP HERE HAVE GOTTEN HUGE...

ER... UM...
H-
HEY, UH... NISHI-MIYA.
AFTER I GRADUATE, I'M GONNA STUDY TO BE A HAIR-DRESSER!
BUT IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK, OKAY?
...

SO, UM, I GUESS WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE CREEPED OUT BY IT/ I MEAN, I WANT TO CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY TOGETHER NEXT YEAR!
S-
S-
IT'S SO I CAN TAKE OVER THE FAMILY SALON! GOT IT?!
I DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK THAT... I'M NOT SOME KIND OF STALKER.
NO, WAIT... UH, WHAT I MEAN IS, ER, I'M NOT JUST COPYING YOU, OKAY?
THAT'S ALL!
SKRITCH SKRITCH
GOOD... YOU UNDER-STAND...
NN.

I WAS...
THINKING THE SAME THING.
SO LET'S...
DO OUR BEST TO-GETHER.
...
YEAH.



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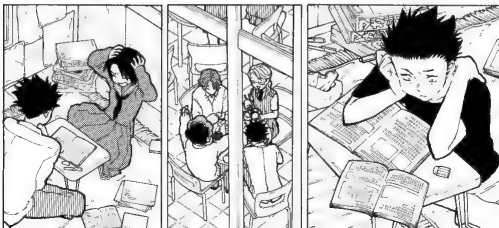
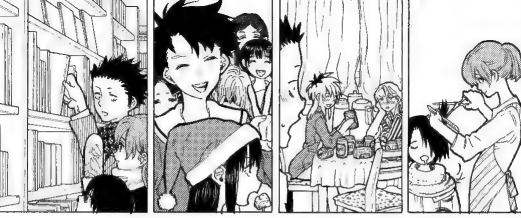




3

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Diploma

OH, NOT AT ALL.
PLEASE BE CAREFUL IN TOKYO.
OF COURSE. LET'S GET GOING, SHOKO.
BRING ME BACK A SOUVENIR/
THAT'S EVERY-THING.
THANK YOU, ISHIDA-KUN, NAGA-TSUKA-KUN. YOU WERE BOTH A LOT OF HELP.
KEEP AN EYE ON YUZURU FOR ME.
HEY, UH, NISHI-MIYA...
I KNOW WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SAY IS PRETTY EMBARRAS-SING, BUT...
OH, YEAH.
WHAT I'VE BEEN...
MEAN-ING TO SAY TO HER...
HUH?
COME ON, YA-SHO. SAY GOOD-BYE/
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING YOU'VE BEEN MEANING TO SAY TO HER?

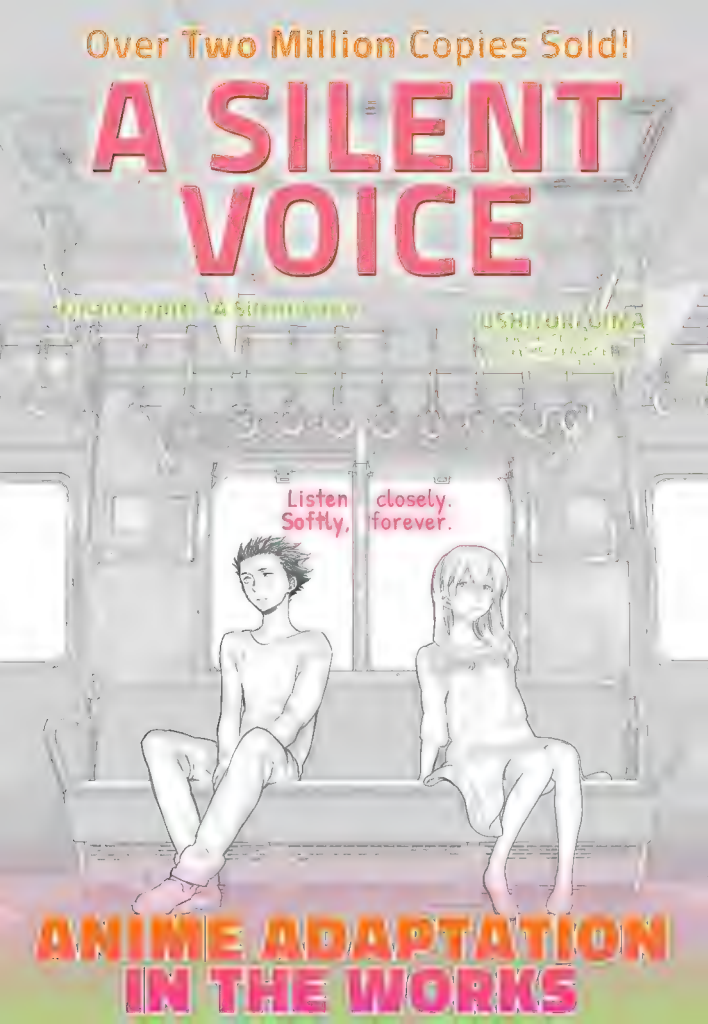
WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS YOU GAVE ME LAST YEAR?
*SFX: "WOOSH"
VROOM
OH...
NISHI-MIYA!
I AM VERY DISAPPOINTED IN YOU.
JINGA-LING
...
from: Shoko Nishimiya
sub: You use them like this.
...

WOW, SO HE'S GOING TO FRANCE.
HE'S GOING TO FRANCE TO STUDY MUSIC.
YEAH, I DO. WHY?
OH, COME TO THINK OF IT, DO YOU HAVE THE EMAIL ADDRESS OF THE GUY WHO HANDLED THE MUSIC FOR THE MOVIE, NAGATSUKA-KUN?
I JUST WANT TO ASK IF HE'S COMING TO THE COMING-OF-AGE CEREMONY.
I WANT TO TALK TO HIM.
FOR REAL THIS TIME.
CONGRATULATIONS!
SUIMON MUNICIPAL
COMING-OF-AGE CEREMONY
NEXT TIME: THE FINAL CHAPTER OF "A SILENT VOICE."

OUR STAGE IS TWO YEARS IN THE FUTURE. HOW WILL THIS STORY ABOUT A BOY WHO CAN HEAR AND A GIRL WHO CANNOT END?

Over Two Million Copies Sold!

A SILENT VOICE



ANIME ADAPTATION IN THE WORKS

"A Silent Voice" Final Chapter

CONGRATULATIONS ON BECOMING ADULTS!

BOY, THEY'RE LATE...

SNIP SNIP
HAIR MAKE ISHIDA

HEY! NOT SO SHORT THERE!
WHAT?
BUT IT'S CUTER THIS WAY.
MOM, HAVE YOU SEEN MY TIE?!
JEEZ! THIS IS WHY I TOLD YOU TO GET YOUR THINGS TOGETHER YESTERDAY!
HAS NISHI-MIYA-SAN ALREADY LEFT THE HOUSE?
IT DOESN'T APPEAR SO. SEE?
GOOD MORN-ING.
OH! GOOD MORNING, MA'AM.

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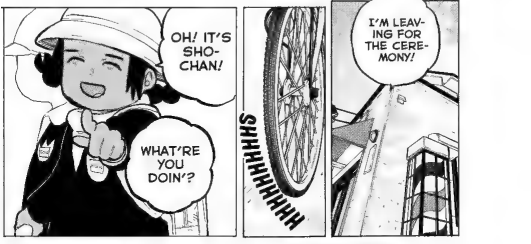
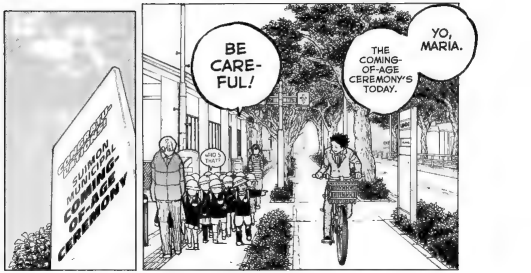
THEY'RE PUTTING ON THEIR KIMONOS THEMSELVES TOO. ISN'T THAT IMPRESSIVE?
OHHH! SO NISHIMIYA'S DOING THEIR HAIR?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT MY GIRL IS GOING TO DO...
H-HAS SHE ALREADY DECIDED WHERE SHE'S GOING TO WORK?
SAHARA-SAN AND UENO-SAN ARE APPARENTLY GOING TO START THEIR OWN BRAND.
DON'T ASK ME. THAT'S HER DECISION.
IT'S GREAT THAT PEDRO-SAN IS BACK.
YES, I KNOW MY DAUGHTER IS HAPPY.
SHOYA-SAN.
I FOUND YOUR NECKTIE...
OHHH! THANKS, PEDRO!

HEY, PEDRO! YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE LOOKING FOR TIES!
YES.
YOU'VE GOTTA FIND A JOB SO WE CAN SUPPORT THIS CHILD!
YES.
SO YOUR FAMILY IS GETTING BIGGER?
IT SURE IS.


I'M LEAVING FOR THE CEREMONY!
SHHHHHHHH
OH! IT'S SHO-CHAN!
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'?


YO, MARIA.
THE COMING-OF-AGE CEREMONY'S TODAY.
BE CARE-FUL!
SUMMON MUNICIPAL COMING-OF-AGE CEREMONY

BY THE WAY, WHERE IS EVERY-ONE?
HAVEN'T SEEM 'EM YET.
AW, COME ON!
THAT'S RICH COMIN' FROM YOU, SHORTY.
YO, ISHIDA! I GUESS THE CLOTHES REALLY DO MAKE THE MAN, EH?
YO, YUZURU. SHOWIN' OFF THOSE SHABBY LEGS OF YOURS?
NAGA-TSUKA-KUN!
THERE YOU ARE, POOP HEAD. STOP IT WITH THE SEXUAL HARASS-MENT.
I'M NOT GONNA STOP ANYTHING, THE SEXUAL HARASSMENT OR MY POOP HEAD.

I'M A MAN WHO NEVER LEARNS.
PLUS, YOU KEEP USING THE "FRIENDSHIP" THEME, BUT THE JUDGES KEEP TELLING YOU YOU'RE NOT CUT OUT FOR IT!
HUH? DIDN'T WE JUST FILM ONE?
BY THE BY, I'M MAKING A NEW FILM WITH THE THEME "FRIENDSHIP." I CAN COUNT ON YOUR HELP, RIGHT?
IN A GOOD WAY.
OH! OVER HERE, MASHIBA-KUN!
HEHEH.
HEY, KAWAI-SAN! LONG TIME NO SEE!
HEY, EVERY-BODY.
OH.

WHERE ARE THE GIRLS?!
LET'S GO, YA-SHO!
I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND WHAT I WANT TO DO.
THAT'S BAD, ISN'T IT?
AT THIS RATE, I'M GONNA END UP AN ACTOR ATTACHED TO AN UNPOPULAR DIRECTOR.
ARE YOU GRADUATING THIS YEAR, ISHIDA-KUN?
YEP, BUT I'VE STILL GOT EXAMS LEFT.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
OH!
OH, THE CEREMONY'S ABOUT TO START.
LOOKIN' FORWARD TO IT, MASHY!
:AHEM: COMING OUT IN THIS COLD TO...
:AHEM: TODAY WE THANK YOU FOR...
:AHEM: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...
HMM?
New Message
from: Miyoko Sahara
sub: Ishida-kun!
One o'clock!
SAHARA?
BZZZT

STOP YOUR FLIRTING!!
...
*SFX: "CLAP"
ALL RIGHT! EVERYBODY HERE?!

SNAP

YEP!
THAT WAS A GOOD ONE!

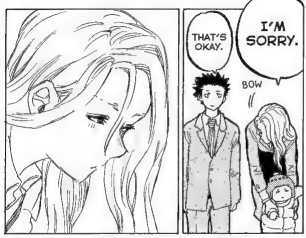
OH.
WHAT IS IT?

THE REUNIONS ARE RIGHT AFTER THIS. WANNA SPLIT UP FOR NOW?
LET'S MEET UP AGAIN AFTER DARK AND GET SOME FOOD!
SOUNDS GOOD!
THAT'S GOT MY VOTE!

THANK YOU, YUZURU-CHAN.
NOW WHAT?

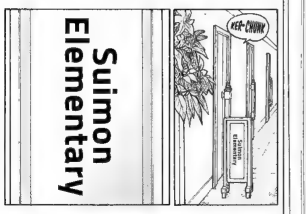
I SPOTTED AN OLD CLASSMATE.
I'VE GOTTA GO.
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TELL THEM.
OH. THEN, SEE YOU AT SIX!
DON'T FOR-GET!
YEAH.
OH, NAGA-TSUKA-KUN?
IT'S THE COMING-OF-AGE CEREMONY AND YOU STILL DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS?
HUH?
I'VE GOT FRIENDS.
HAHA! HE'S LOST IT!
RUN FOR IT!!
APOLO-GIZE, YOU JERK!!
N-NAGA-TSUKA-KUN?!

OH, YOU NOTICED?
IT'S FROM SOMEONE WHO WON'T QUIT BUGGING ME ABOUT BEING THEIR PARTNER.
THEY'RE 5'11", GORGEOUS, AND OWN THEIR OWN FASHION BRAND.
THERE'S SUMON ELEMENTARY! LET'S GO!
YEAH.
GUNK!
NAO-CHAN! WHERE'D YOU GET THAT RING?!
BONK
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I GAVE YOU THAT!
GOOD FOR YOU, UENO!
WHAT, FOR REAL?! THAT'S AWESOME!
WE'D BETTER GET GOING TOO, NISHI--
BUMP
COME WITH US, YUZURU-CHAN. THERE'S GONNA BE CAKE.
JEEZ, NAO-CHAN!
COME ON. LET'S GO.
ITSK?
WOO-HOO!!


TEPPA TEPPA

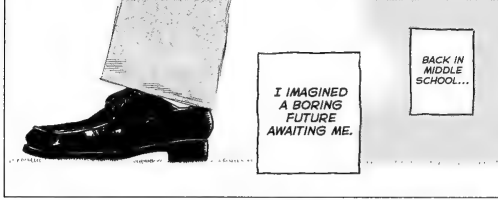
I'M SORRY.
BOW
THAT'S OKAY.

WAIT UP, KEI-CHAN!


Suimon Elementary
KEE-CHUNK
11

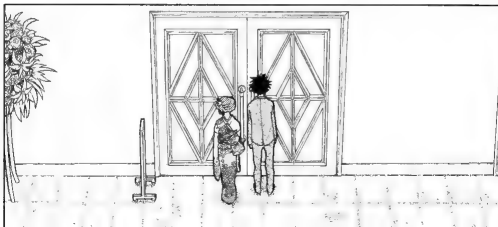
AHHH...

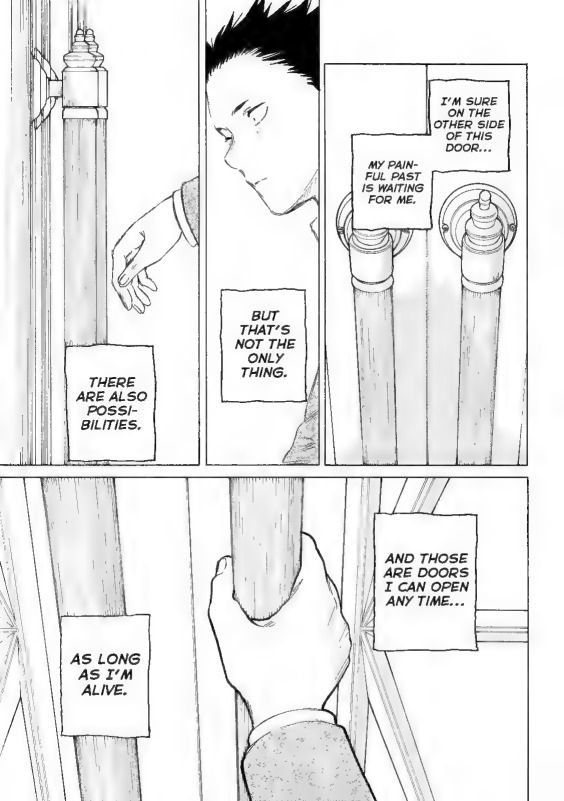
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT DOOR...


I IMAGINED A BORING FUTURE AWAITING ME.
BACK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL...

IT LOOKS SO DECENT AND FULL OF HOPE IT COULD MAKE YOU SICK.
BUT NOW, EVEN THAT FUTURE...
LOOKS BRIGHT TO ME.

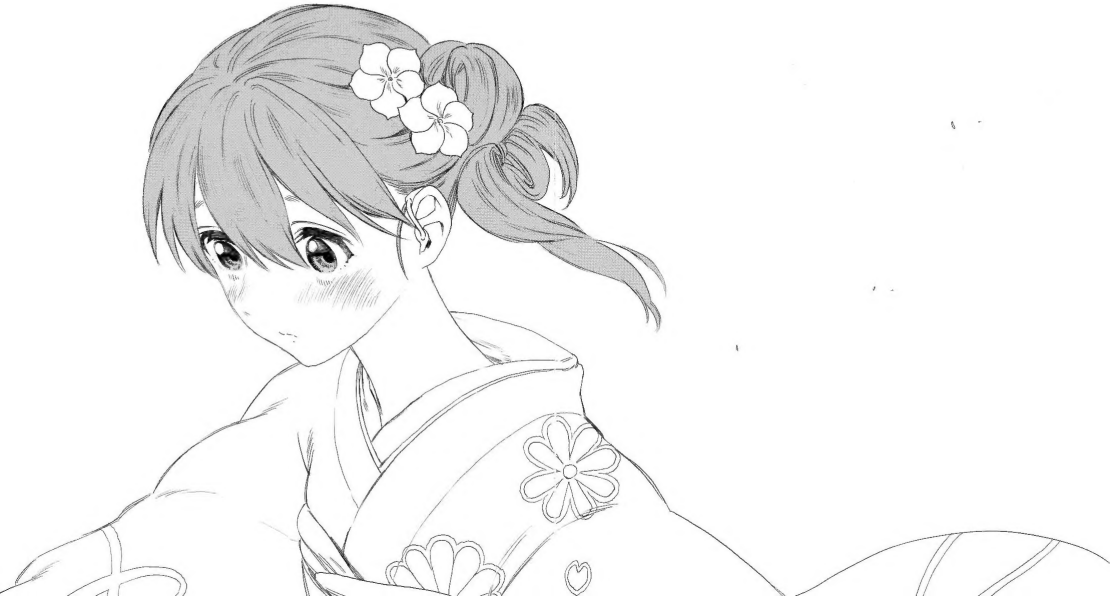
I USED TO HATE NISHIMIYA.
THE SAME WAY...

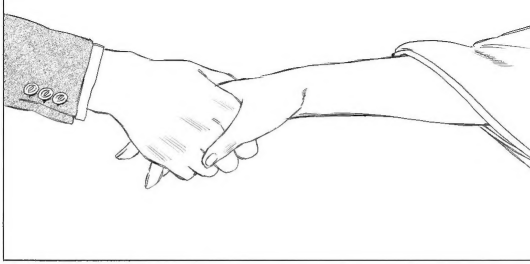



THERE ARE ALSO POSSI-BILITIES.
BUT THAT'S NOT THE ONLY THING.
I'M SURE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS DOOR...
MY PAIN-FUL PAST IS WAITING FOR ME.
AND THOSE ARE DOORS I CAN OPEN ANY TIME...
AS LONG AS I'M ALIVE.

OH, ARE YOU OKAY?

YOU'RE NER-VOUS?
YEAH, ACTUALLY, SO AM I.





■"A Silent Voice" End